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PRESS RELEASE

DATE / TIME OF RELEASE: February 22nd, 2001 2:00am
DATE / TIME OF OCCURRENCE: February 21st, 2001 7:47pm
NATURE OF CALL: Search & Rescue – Missing Skiers
LOCATION OF CALL: Squaw Valley – Alpine Meadows area
CASE NUMBER: SO01-03116
RELEASED BY: Sgt. Bill Langton

SHERIFF EDWARD N. BONNER RELEASES THE FOLLOWING:

At approximately 7:47 PM on Wednesday evening, February 21st, the Placer County Sheriff's Department's North Tahoe Station was notified about two missing skiers in the Squaw Valley area. Apparently two 17 year old local residents were skiing at Squaw Valley during the day and had told friends that they were going to ski down to Alpine Meadows Road where one of them lives. They told friends to meet them at 4pm at the residence in Alpine Meadows to give them a ride back to Squaw Valley so that they could pick up their vehicles.

When the friends arrived at 4pm, neither of the young men was there. The friends later checked at Squaw Valley Ski Resort and found that both of their vehicles were still present and unmoved.

A Search and Rescue effort was launched shortly thereafter. Members of the Sheriff's Department as well as the Tahoe Nordic Search & Rescue team and the Squaw Valley Ski Patrol have joined in the search. It is believed that the two missing skiers may have become lost or otherwise disabled in the area between the Squaw Valley Ski resort and Alpine Meadows.

As of this writing, no signs of the missing skiers have been located. The weather is poor with snow and high winds. The avalanche danger in the area is high. Searchers have noted several snow slides in the areas being searched. It is unknown if the missing skiers could have been caught in one.

The search will continue all night. At first light, searchers will have a better idea of the conditions and if weather permits, air support will be added to the mix.

The Placer County Sheriff's Department has established a command post at the Squaw Valley Fire Department, 1810 Squaw Valley Road in Olympic Valley.

Further updates will be issued as new information is developed.

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